NEW ADDRESS: Rt 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

12/23/67

Dear Mrs. Hartmann,

Your letter of 12/16 is one of a number of (to me) rather nice Xmas presents. I do appreciate your taking the time to write as you did. The stack of unanswered mail (I have just returned from N.O.-I stayed there and worked for Jim after the broadcast) requires brevity of me.

That my first two books angered you pleases me. I want Americans to be angry, as I am. I feel that if we are not we are inhuman. I abhor the emotional castration demanded by the eastern intellectual community, one of the reason they do not review my books and do what they can to help suppress them.

Your suggestion about Thompson fascinates me, for it exactly coincides with my belief. I realize you are circumlocutious in your letter for a purpose and I respect that, whatever it is. I also detect what I think is your suggestion that I believe you have a background or experiences that qualifies you to hold an opinion in this field, unless I am too sensitive and read in what you do not intend.

I was in California when the SEPost came out. From the promotion and the words of friends working in the field I knew that the best he had done was to rehash the work of others, probably largely mine. Not until 11/21, flying home, did I get a chance to read the Post summary (I have since begun the book, squeezing a few minutes in on it between essentials). My suspicions are confirmed in it. Stripped of the flackery and pretense, what Thompson does is to tell the government, which cannot any longer pretend the Report is accurate, that there is a small error it can acknowledge and live with while still claiming the essence of the Report is accurate! He is in accord with all its basic ~~agreements~~ claims, even on the lack of a conspiracy. He says the three assessins he alleges were not conspirators! That, when he also uses the word, "accomplice" is rewriting the dictionary and the law.

He is is accord on the sixth-floor window, on Oswald, on the fatal shot coming from there, on Frame 210, etc. What he does is say that there were two other kooks who got the same nutty idea at the same time and just by accident selected the same place and the same time for its implimentation-just by accident-no conspiracy.

There are a few things in his stuff not yet published. The remarkable thing is that each one I have thus far seen (or heard him mention) is in my completed but unpublished work, things I told colleagues working in the field (at least three of whom have been in touch with Thompson) in confidence, so that understanding what I had learned would help their work. More remarkably still, I have yet to see anything he has "discovered" that I hadn't. Is it conceivable that in those 300 cubic feet of files I had gotten everything of value, so he could get nothing I hadn't? Not to me!

And his error is conscious and basic. He can make some through ignorance, but not the kind he made. These are deliberate and consistent with your analysis and mine.

You misunderstood something I said. I do not have a letter from Hoover. I am qualified to work in the Archives, as any citizen can be if he has the need.

The truth is Mr. Hoover does not answer my letters. He will not even send me a press release! He is silent to my specific charges of specifica suppression and to documentation of their illegality.

The books are going separately. Thank youfor the order.

To answer your questions:

Marina was an early orphan. She was a member of the Young Communist group, the Komsommol, not the Communist Party.

Oswald was a metal-worker in a radio-TV factory at Minsk. There is absolutely nothing to indicate, even justify the suspicion, that he got intelligence training inside the Soviet Union. However, he was in such a part of the Marine Corps, a U-2 outfit and he had a crypto clearance!

At least oneof the wire services did distribute the pictures taken from inside the sewer when Garrison released them. The papers just did not carry them. This is not unique. UPI asked me to write a special article to be used the Sunday before the anniversary of the assassination. I did. They out it on the wire. I have not heard of a single paper using it!

There were all sorts of rumors, as was inevitable. That LBJ also was shot was false.

The claims that O shot at Gen W is Marina's along. It is without substantiation and I do not believe it. When it was possible to tie this bullet to O by spectrographic analysis, this was not done. I presume because it was known it would not succeed. There is no ballistics tie.

I suspect most people would be willing to believe that a wife would not squeal on her husband, hence that Marina didn't report on O.

RFK, like most other busy men, knows what his advisers tell him. He has every reason to trust them, as he did when he was AG. They are merely wrong, and they have a vested interest in seeing that he is misinformed, as they also did in the DJ. This doesnot make him a conspirator. However, I think his conduct with the pictures and X-rays said to have been those of the autopsy cannot be explained or excused.

I am not a left-winger or a right-winger, and I agree that neither would make any difference. On some issues I am liberal, on others conservative. In truth I am uncompromising onthis issue.

The tests made with this rifle, and by experts, which O was not, prove the contrary to the Commission's allegations on both speed and accuracy.

The information on Oswald and the car is from Ruth Paine, his instructor.

The general route of the motorcade was announced less than a week in advance. There is nothing but confusion about its path at Dealey Plaza. However, in general, this is the usual route for such motorcades in Dallas.

Please excuse the haste. Merry Christmas to you, and let us hope we get this mess straightened out in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg